



# Our Children. Our Schools. Our Future.

OCTOBER 2013

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Dear Friends and Supporters,

In these late fall months, many high school seniors have just finished applying to college, and many others are starting the process. So, it is fitting that November is College Application Campaign Month – an effort driven by the Arizona Commission for Postsecondary Education and an opportunity for students of all grades to focus on college and career exploration.

More than 60% of Arizona's future jobs will require some form of postsecondary education preparation. Only 26% of Arizonans over the age of 25 have obtained a bachelor's degree. Clearly, in order to thrive in the evolving economy, and to benefit our state's economic growth, our high school seniors must explore the postsecondary options available to them.

It is important to note that Arizona's high school seniors have many opportunities to target their postsecondary education and many avenues to obtain a diploma. For example, not every career field requires a four-year college degree. Colleges offer a flexible environment to gain industry certifications, associates degrees and even start on a pathway to a four-year university.

Throughout Governor Brewer's administration, she has pushed the Arizona Board of Regents to develop more affordable and sustainable models of higher education and has challenged the entire postsecondary community to work together to create cost-effective degree pathways. The postsecondary community responded and has created multiple programs that coordinate local community colleges and university systems to allow for smoother transfers for students. Students and their families should explore the benefits of this collaboration, and chart out ways to obtain the degree or certification of their choice.

Online resources provide easy and accessible information for students to explore options. The Arizona Career Information System ([www.azcis.org](http://www.azcis.org)) provides information on educational requirements for various careers as well as tools to help create an Education Career Action Plan (ECAP). Another great online resource for students to find programs of study and degree pathways is [www.aztransfer.com](http://www.aztransfer.com). Here students and parents can explore program offerings and transfer opportunities from community colleges to the three public universities.

Our goal of doubling the number of bachelor's degrees issued in the state by 2020 is key to the continued growth of our state. So take some time this November to explore college options and application requirements with the high school student in your life.

Sincerely,  
The Arizona Ready Team